



UNODC

***Drug Trafficking through
Central America
— and —
Narco Terrorism Prevention***

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Dear Delegates,

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to Yeni Yol Model United Nations 2023! Our names are Rana Beril Gülcü and Yağmur Onarlı, and we are humbled by the opportunity to serve as your Secretaries-General for the 2nd Session of YYMUN.

The Secretariat team has been working diligently to ensure that all delegates will be given the opportunity to develop broader perspectives, voice their opinions on current global issues, and cooperate with others to produce effective resolutions. We expect that the topics covered in the committees will appeal to all the delegates' levels or more challenging in Intermediate and Advanced committees so that they may provide challenge, helpful guidance to your needs and assistance to improve your visions. After an eventful weekend full of diplomacy, debate, and delight, we wish you to leave our conference with the potential to become future leaders of our society.

This document will provide you with the Study Guide for your committee, which will enable you to comprehend the issue to be debated more easily. The entire Secretariat and Staff have committed countless hours to ensure that the substance and presentation of this document are of the highest quality, and that you are supported with the most useful tools to succeed at the conference. Each Chair has worked over the past few months to provide you with the foundation necessary to continue your own exploration of the topic areas. We look forward to working with you to continue YYMUN's substantive excellence.

Apart from this document, you will also be able to access a number of additional documents that will aid in your preparations for the conference. We will provide you with the **Code of Conduct** that reviews some rules, principles and expectations, as well as our updated **Rules of Procedure**, which you can find on our website.

If you have any questions about this document, the other Guides, or your committee in general, please do not hesitate to contact us or your Under-Secretaries-General. We are truly excited to meet you all and are eager to address any concerns you may have before, during, or after the conference. I hope you enjoy reading the following Study Guide, and I cannot wait to see your solutions in YYMUN'23!

Yours in diplomacy,

Secretaries of General

Rana Beril Gülcü | Yağmur Onarlı

YYMUN'23 Study Guide of UNODC Committee

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

UNODC is a committee that is mandated to aid member states regarding illicit terrorism, drugs, and crime. It was established in 1997 by combining the Center for International Crime Prevention and the UN Drug Control Program. The committee deals with various matters, which include drug trafficking, human trafficking, international terrorism, etc. UNODC aims to prevent terrorism by holding international conventions and implementing appropriate protocols. The policies implemented by UNODC are targeted toward the police, public prosecutors, judiciary, and prisons in each member state.

During this conference, UNODC attempts to promote global policies that shield participating countries, as well as the entire world community, from the damaging effects of narcoterrorism. Delegates are advised to look up previous analogous instances in other regions of the world considering narco-terrorism is a global problem.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Drug cartels

Any criminal organization with the intention of supplying drug trafficking operations.

Drug trafficking

Illegal transport of illicit narcotics

Narco-terrorism

Terrorism financed by profits from illegal drug trafficking

Narco guerrilla

A guerrilla who benefited from narco-trafficking operations by being part of it

INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA ITEM

The agenda of this committee is broadly defined as “Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Narco-Terrorism”. The illicit drug problem can be divided into three categories: drugs that are produced from natural plant products (e.g. opium, morphine, heroin), synthetically produced illicit drugs (e.g. amphetamine), and lastly, pharmaceutical drugs if used for illicit purposes. The main focus of the committee will be on the illicit trade of the first two categories through Central America.

In the following chapters, different aspects of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism will be introduced as well as major routes and countries involved. The goal of this committee should be on drafting a resolution all nations are willing and able to enforce. For this reason, delegates should keep in mind the current political power balance and the socioeconomic effects of the illicit drug market.

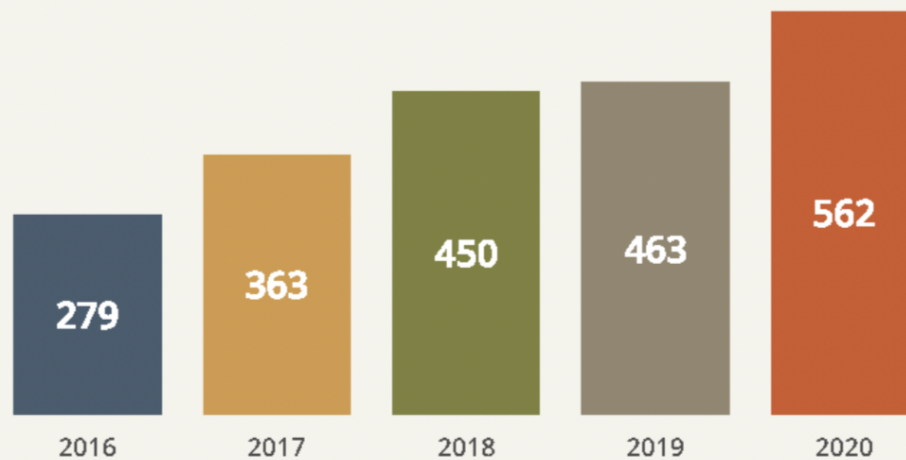
GENERAL OVERVIEW

Drug trafficking is the illegal trade of drugs across international borders, while narco-terrorism refers to the use of violence by drug cartels or terrorist organizations to control drug trafficking routes or to finance their operations. Both drug trafficking and narco-terrorism are serious global problems that have significant social, economic, and political consequences.

Drug trafficking is one of the largest illegal markets in the world estimated to be a US\$400 billion industry, involving approximately 275 million people in the production, distribution, or consumption of drugs.

Drug trafficking cases registered

The last 5 years have seen a steady increase in case numbers

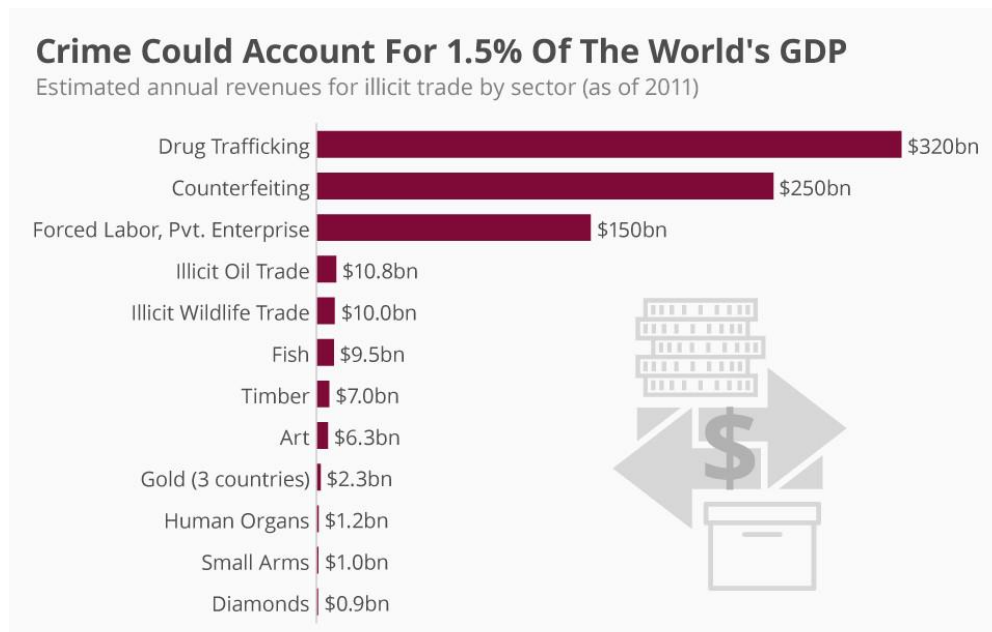


Various aspects of society such as health, crime, and economics are affected by drug trafficking. In terms of health, drug abuse can cause numerous physical and mental health problems. It can also affect public health, having been linked with infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. According to the World Health Organization, drug abuse is responsible for over 400,000 deaths every year.

The illicit drug trade is also linked with high levels of crime, including violent crime, theft, money laundering, and corruption. Illicit production, manufacture, distribution, possession, and consumption of illicit drugs constitute criminal offenses in most countries, in particular those countries which are signatories to the 1961, 1971, and 1988 United Nations drug control conventions. Drugs increase the likelihood of many kinds of criminal activity. It contributes to social inequality and undermines the rule of law. Drug trafficking is also an impetus for organized crime which further exaggerates these problems.

From an economic perspective, while there are some “benefits”, they are easily outweighed by the considerable health and financial burden put on society. In the end, benefiting only the suppliers and the traffickers as the producers and the trafficking countries pay a high social and political price for short-term economic gains. Given the hierarchical structure of the illicit drug industry, the largest profits are concentrated among a somewhat small number of people

while drug farmers often operate under quite competitive market conditions and thus earn relatively little. It also affects work, employment, and productivity.



Drug trafficking and terrorism are closely linked in many parts of the world. In regions such as the Middle East, Central Asia, and parts of Africa, terrorist organizations such as ISIS, Al-Qaida, and the Taliban have been reported to use drug trafficking to fund their operations. The turnover from the illicit drug trade has been used to purchase weapons, fund training, and recruit new members.

The connection between drug trafficking and terrorism is also a serious problem in Central America, where drug cartels have been involved in various violent crimes, including assassinations, bombings, and kidnappings. The US State Department has stated that trafficking organizations in Central America have increasingly adopted terrorist tactics in their operations. Such drug cartels have posed grave threats to both their countries and the countries of the targeted drug markets for decades. They also have control over the major routes and the local organized crime groups along them.

Main Routes

Central American countries are supplier and transit countries for cocaine bound for the main consumer markets in the United States and Western Europe. Illicit drug trades have been going on in Central America for decades. After the Mexican government implemented its new national security measures in 2006 upsetting the power balance and creating new paths controlled by local organized crime groups. The main routes trafficking organizations use are the Pacific route, the Caribbean route, and the Atlantic route.

The Pacific Route

In this route, the main ports of exit are Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador. Usually ending up directly in US ports, or Mexican ports where they are transported to the US-Mexico border. The significance of this route comes from the opportunity it grants trafficking organizations to disembark in the Central American ports to transfer to land routes or other vessels with higher transport capacity making it easier to blend in the drugs. It also passes through points that have direct routes to the Pacific region of Asia and Oceania where there has been an increase in the use of drugs produced in Latin America.

The Caribbean Route

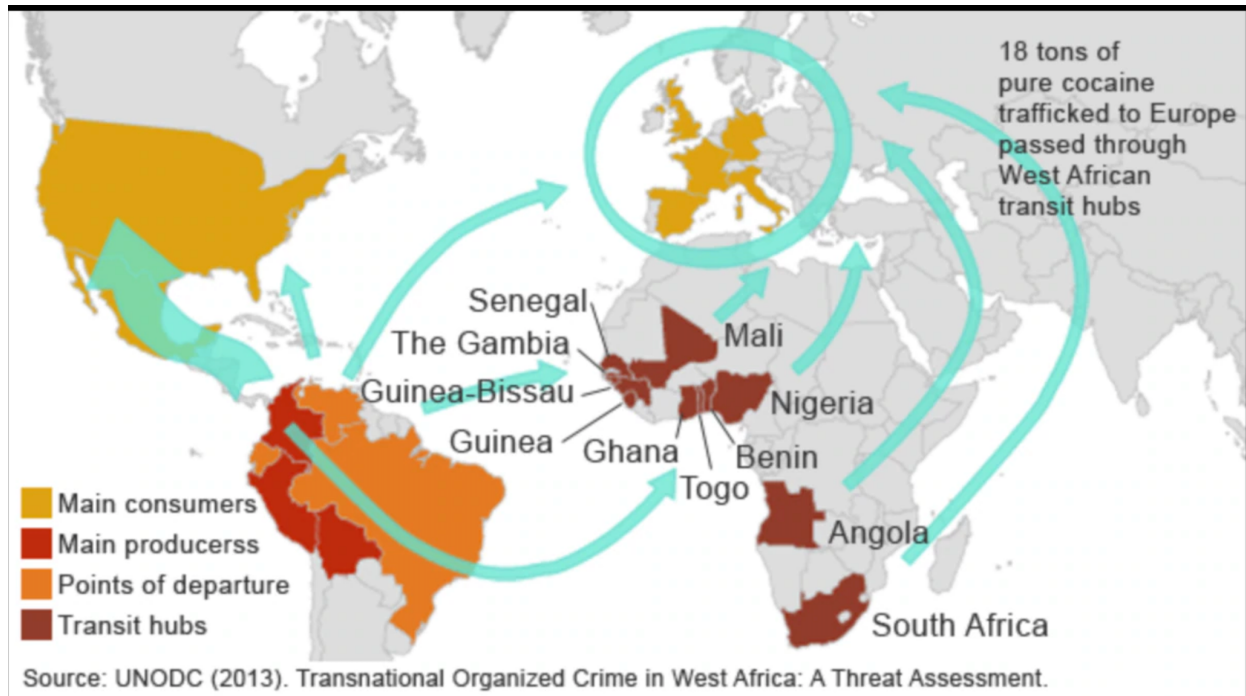
While this route has been used as a way to introduce drugs to the United States in the past, it's currently a traffic path where approximately 40% of the cocaine destined for the European markets goes through. Either getting transshipped to boats destined for West Africa or directly going to main entrances ports of Europe such as England, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.

The Atlantic Route

This route is primarily used to traffic drugs from the Southern parts of the continent to Africa via vessels leaving Brazil. It has also been reported that the route is used to get drugs to Europe through vessels departing from Argentina and Uruguay.

As nations implement new actions to detect illicit drug shipments in collaboration with the UNODC and various other organizations, these paths

continue to evolve with drug trafficking organizations finding new more subtle ways to transport drugs to their destined markets.



MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED

MEXICO

Mexico is the most prominent nation involved in narcoterrorism in both Latin America and the international community due to its geographical location. Armed with military hardware, Mexico's cartels of drugs outnumber the country's law enforcement agencies. The drug cartels and Mexican international crime organizations get away with smuggling drugs to Columbia and the USA due to their significant political power. Violence fueled by drugs is also spreading in nearby nations. Political and social transformation requires immediate action in Mexico to lower the country's drug and crime rates.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala's homicide rate has increased over the ten years preceding it, and drug-associated murder is one of the primary factors to blame. Guatemala is home to 300 highly established security service providers.

COLOMBIA

Colombia received a reputation during the 20th century for being a target of numerous attacks by illicit drug traffickers. As a response, the government reinforced the military with cooperation from the U.S., which ended up resulting in the country transforming into a drug war zone. They continue to deal with these problems with the surrounding countries today. Three of the four terrorist organizations that the US labeled as foreign terrorist organizations for engaging in drug trafficking and other drug-related terrorist activities are from Colombia: the FARC, ELN, and AUC.

USA

The United States of America remains the largest and most dependable market for Colombia's illicit drug trade. According to John P. Walters, Director of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2002, Americans spend more than \$60 billion a year on illicit substances. The US suffers a rise in narcoterrorism and illegal drug trafficking every single year as an outcome of its proximity to Central American countries. It was impossible to completely eradicate all of the sources and associated issues despite the attempts of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to control the use of drugs and supply in the country. The US continues to fight crime in all its manifestations, including drug trafficking and narcoterrorism.

BOLIVIA

Bolivia is the third largest coca bush grower in the world. The area under coca bush cultivation is estimated to be around 31,000 hectares showing a major decrease since the 1980s when Bolivia was reported to be the source of approximately 15% of the US cocaine market. The illicit drug trade caused corruption and a dramatic increase in drug-related violence resulting in the government implementing some of the strictest laws to prevent it.

EL SALVADOR

Narco guerillas frequently store and transport their drugs, particularly cocaine, in El Salvador. The country has been known for possessing a high murder rate, however, this has changed as a result of increased efforts to combat drug trafficking and usage. El Salvador-produced drugs had been traded with Mexico and the US.

HONDURAS

Due to its high homicide rate, Honduras is considered the most dangerous country in the world. The street gang group called "Maras" from Central America is the largest contributor to this record-breaking state of Honduras. They are a gang that purchases drugs and has connections to cartels; as they grow, they become more vicious. They are considered as the most hazardous gang in the world.

BRAZIL

The threat posed by Colombian narco-terrorist organizations and the tri-border territory between Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay has prompted the Brazilian government to look for a practical way to decrease both the consumption of illegal drugs and the rate at which narco-terrorism is spreading. Brazil is classified as a "Typical Transit Zone Country" in the UNODC 2005 Report due to its ranking as the seventh-highest consumer of ecstasy and the tenth-highest consumer of cocaine and amphetamines globally.

CHILE

One of the core Central American nations, Chile, has an intricate relationship with narco-terrorism and issues involving illegal drugs. The nation suffers from drug trafficking across its shared border with Bolivia and Peru. In response, the Chilean government launched the Northern Border Plan, a program that combines cutting-edge technology, including mobile X-ray units and thermal imaging cameras, to scan cars and find drugs concealed in small crevices. Its counter-narcotics battles have been effective thus far.

PERU

In Peru, drug trafficking is a serious problem, especially when cocaine is produced and distributed. One of the major manufacturers of cocaine in the world is Peru, and much of it is exported to other nations, especially the United States. Peru's illegal drug trade is frequently linked to organized crime,

corruption, and bloodshed. The elimination of coca fields and crackdowns on drug smuggling are just two of the many initiatives the government has put in place to fight drug trafficking. But the country continues to face a substantial threat from the illicit drug trade.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Europe is a big market for illicit substances, therefore drug trafficking is a serious issue there. In addition to being a key market for heroin and synthetic narcotics, Europe is the second-largest consumer of cocaine in the world, after North America. In Europe, narcotics are manufactured and distributed by organized crime organizations from a variety of continents, including Latin America and Eastern Europe. These organizations frequently smuggle narcotics using sophisticated techniques, such as hiding them in consumer items or selling drugs on the dark web.

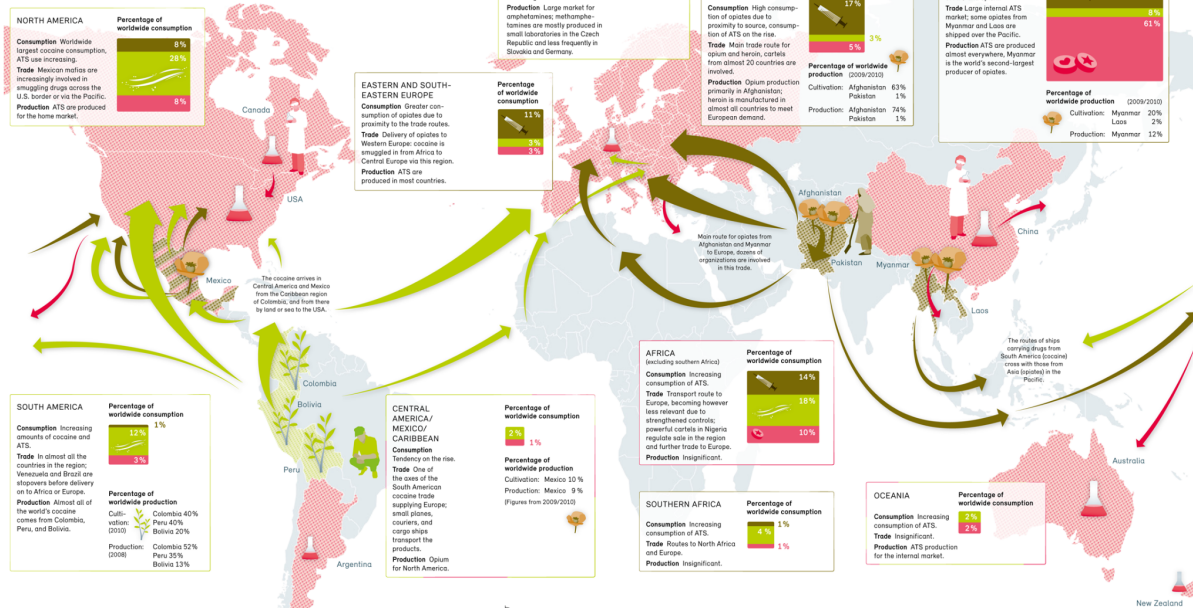
ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE ISSUE

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a leading international organization dedicated to addressing drug trafficking and drug abuse worldwide. They have been cooperating closely with governments, civil society organizations, and other partners in Latin America, where drug trafficking is a major issue, in order to lessen the manufacturing and distribution of illicit narcotics as well as the harm they bring to society.

The UNODC's strategy in Latin America includes a variety of initiatives, such as encouraging regional cooperation between governments and law enforcement agencies, strengthening drug control laws and regulations, and assisting programs for drug addiction prevention and treatment.

DISTRIBUTION

Hard drugs are especially popular in the USA, Europe, and Asia. Crossing all borders, consumers are supplied with these illegal products by truck, ship, or small plane. Opium originates primarily in Afghanistan or Myanmar, while cocaine comes mostly from Colombia, Peru, or Bolivia.



Cannabis is the most widely consumed illegal drug in the world. A full presentation of the worldwide cultivation and consumption of this substance would go far beyond the scope of this infographic. For the same reason, values under 1 percent for other drugs are not indicated in the case of manufacture and consumption. The figures are from 2009, in as far as not otherwise indicated: * 2010, ** 2007, *** 2006 (the amount produced today and the current turnover are probably much higher).

Drug Trafficking

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CASE STUDY

The Taliban's Involvement in the Illicit Opium Trade

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 until late 2001 when they were overthrown by US forces. Despite the 20-year conflict that followed and the deaths of tens of thousands of Taliban fighters, the group's territorial control and military strength has increased in recent years. Maintaining this level of resurgence has required a great deal of funding from sources both inside and outside of Afghanistan. It was estimated in UNSC reports that the Taliban has an annual income ranging from \$300 million to \$1.6 billion.

Afghanistan has long had a history of opium poppy cultivation and harvest. As of 2021, Afghanistan's harvest produces more than 90% of illicit heroin globally, and more than 95% of the European supply. The Taliban has had mixed stances on opium over the years. Poorly enforced restrictions in the 1990s were a prelude to a full and very effective ban on religious grounds in 2000. The Afghan war in 2001 meant that the ban was only briefly effective.

After the Taliban lost control, the opium trade spiked in 2006. Despite being against its cultivation in the past, the Taliban used opium money to fuel their two-decade campaign to retake Afghanistan. According to the UNODC, the Taliban raised around \$155 million in 2009 from the poppy trade. This included taxing opium farmers, taxing and protecting drug convoys, and taxing heroin laboratory owners. Since their return to power in 2021, opium cultivation increased by 32%, or 56,000 hectares, compared to previous years. Even though, when asked the Taliban deny their involvement in the drug industry and take pride in having banned opium cultivation in 2000, and recently in 2022, experts estimate that the drug trade accounts for up to 60% of the Taliban's annual revenue.

Foreign Involvement to Solve the Issue

Approximately 40,000 foreign troops, 32,000 soldiers from NATO forces, and 8,000 from the U.S. and other special operations forces, attempted to manage security in Afghanistan. However, there has been significant resistance from both the Taliban and local gangs and drug organizations. There has also been regional cooperation to put a stop to the illicit opium trade. In 1992, all of the Central Asian countries joined the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which in recent years developed a strong focus on strengthening drug control in the region. The Shanghai Cooperation also covered several issues related to regional security, including the illicit drug trade. The UNODC offers help to nations in the region to strengthen their border security as well as conducting researches to learn more about the issue.

QUESTIONS THE RESOLUTION SHOULD CONSIDER

- 1- How can the government overcome the financial problems brought on by the implementation of new policies to combat narcoterrorism?
- 2- How can the financing of terrorism organizations be controlled and regulated by the governments?
- 3-How can the UN and NGOs be used to effectively combat narco-terrorism?
- 4-What steps can be taken to prevent drug trafficking at the international level?

5-How can the human rights of drug traffickers and users be protected while also cracking down on the illegal drug trade? Should there be alternative approaches to drug policy, such as harm reduction and decriminalization?

6-How can drug trafficking be addressed in the context of globalization and the increasing interconnectedness of the world?

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